

TITLE 92 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 CHAPTER 94 - SAFETY INSPECTION CRITERIA FOR  
 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES

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 (With Subsections Alphabetized)

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001 General Information

001.01 Statutory Authority. This chapter is adopted pursuant to Section 79-318 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska (R.R.S.)

"The State Board of Education shall: . . (13) with the advice of the Department of Motor Vehicles, adopt and promulgate rules and regulations containing reasonable standards, not inconsistent with existing statutes, governing: (a) the general design, equipment, color, operation, and maintenance of any vehicle with the manufacturer's rated seating capacity of eleven or more passengers, used for the transportation of school children; and (b) the equipment, operation and maintenance of any vehicle with a capacity of ten or less passengers, used for the transportation of school children, when such vehicles are either owned or operated, or owned and operated by any school district or privately owned or operated under contract with any school district in this state. Similar rules and regulations shall be adopted and promulgated for operators of such vehicles as provided in 79-607."

And pursuant to Section 79-602 of the Revised Statues of Nebraska (R.R.S.) which states:

"All school boards, the governing authority of any nonpublic school in this state, and all independent contractors who provide student transportation services for such boards of education and governing boards and for military installations shall cause all pupil transportation vehicles used for the transportation of students to be inspected before school opens in the fall and each eighty days during that part of the year when school is in session by a motor vehicle mechanic appointed by the board of education or governing authority having jurisdiction over such students, except that any pupil transportation vehicle that has been inspected under rules and regulations of the Public Service Commission shall be exempted from the provisions of this section. The mechanic shall thoroughly inspect every vehicle used for the transportation of students as to brakes, lights, windshield wipers, window glass, tires, doors, heaters, defrosting equipment, steering gear, exhaust system, and the mechanical condition of every part of such pupil transportation vehicle to ensure compliance with the minimum allowable safety criteria established pursuant to section 79-607 and subdivision (13) of section 79-318. Within five days after such inspection, the mechanic shall make a report of his or her inspection in writing on regular forms provided by the State Department of Education which shall show if the vehicle met the minimum allowable safety criteria for use. Any item not meeting such criteria

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shall be brought into compliance prior to the vehicle being used to transport students. One copy of the mechanic's report shall be filed with the board of education or governing authority and, if the school contracts with an independent contractor to provide transportation services, one copy with the independent contractor. The chief administrative officer of each school district shall annually certify, by a written verification statement, to the State Department of Education that the inspections required pursuant to this section have been performed. Such verification statement shall be sent to the department no later than July 31. The county superintendent, The chief administrative officer or chairperson of the board of education, the governing authority, or the independent contractor shall, upon request, make available the mechanic's inspection reports for each vehicle used for the transportation of students to the Nebraska State Patrol inspector when the annual school vehicle safety equipment inspections are conducted.

All such boards of education, governing authorities, and independent contractors shall also cause such pupil transportation vehicles used for the transportation of students to be safety inspected at least once during each calendar year by the Nebraska State Patrol or the patrol's carrier enforcement division to ensure compliance with the minimum allowable safety criteria prescribed in section 79-607 and subdivision (13) of section 79-318. Upon successful completion of such inspection, an approval sticker shall be placed by the inspector on the windshield, as specified by the rules and regulations established pursuant to subdivision (13) of section 79-318 R.R.S. and within five days after such inspection, the Nebraska State Patrol or the division shall make a report of its inspection in writing and file one copy of such report with the board of education, governing authority, or independent contractor and file one copy with the State Department of Education. If any inspection required by the provisions of this section discloses and equipment not in compliance with the minimum allowable safety criteria, the pupil transportation vehicle shall immediately be removed from service until the defects are corrected to the satisfaction of a Nebraska State Patrol or division inspector.

All such boards of education, governing authorities, and independent contractors shall also cause each pupil transportation vehicle used for the transportation of students to be inspected by the Nebraska State Patrol or the patrol's carrier enforcement division for compliance with minimum equipment standards established pursuant to section 79-607 and subdivision (13) of section 79-318 prior to being placed into service for the first time in the State of Nebraska. After such inspection a one-time minimum equipment standards sticker shall be placed by the inspector on the windshield as specified by the

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rules and regulations established pursuant to subdivision (13) of section 79-318 R.R.S. if the pupil transportation vehicle meets such minimum standards."

001.02 Scope and Application. This Chapter presents the safety inspection criteria required for all vehicles utilized to transport public and nonpublic school students.

001.03 Related Regulations. Additional regulations promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education dealing with pupil transportation drivers and equipment are: Chapter 91, Driver Qualifications and Requirements for Student Transportation Vehicles; Chapter 92, Operational Procedures of Student Transportation Vehicles; and Chapter 93, Minimum Equipment Standards for School Transportation Vehicles.

001.04 Effective Dates. All student transportation vehicles owned or contracted by Nebraska schools or independently contracted to transport school children shall meet or exceed the requirements of this Chapter on and after the effective date of this rule. Vehicles manufactured prior to April 1, 1977, shall not qualify as a student transportation vehicle after January 1, 2000. Coach style buses as defined in Chapter 93 section 003.02 are not included within this definition when used for activity trip purposes.

001.05 Penalty Provisions. According to Section 79-607 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska (R.R.S.):

"Any officer or employee of any school district who violates any of the traffic rules or regulations or fails to include obligations to comply with the traffic rules and regulations in any contract executed by him or her on behalf of a school district shall be guilty of a Class V misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to removal from office or employment. Any person operating a school bus under contract with a school district who fails to comply with any of such traffic rules and regulations shall be guilty of breach of contract, and such contract shall be canceled after notice and hearing by the responsible officers of such school district;"

And pursuant to Section 79-602 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska (R.R.S.) which states, in part:

"If the inspection reveals any equipment on the pupil transportation vehicle that is not in compliance with such minimum equipment standards, the vehicle shall not be put into service until such deficiencies are corrected and a minimum equipment standards sticker is placed on such vehicle. Failure to remove pupil transportation vehicles from service due to noncompliance with

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minimum safety or minimum equipment standards shall constitute a Class V misdemeanor, and conviction for such offense shall be grounds for dismissal of any employee."

001.06 Placement of Inspection Stickers. Upon successful completion of the inspection by the Nebraska State Patrol or the patrol's carrier enforcement division for compliance with the minimum allowable safety criteria in section 79-607 and subdivision (13) of section 79-318 R.R.S., an approval sticker shall be placed on the lower corner of the front windshield opposite the driver's side provided such sticker does not extend more than 115 mm (4 ½ inches) from the bottom of the windshield and is located outside the area swept by the windshield wipers.

Upon successful completion of the inspection by the Nebraska State Patrol or the patrol's carrier enforcement division for compliance with the minimum equipment standards established pursuant to section 79-607 and subdivision (13) of section 79-318 R.R.S. prior to being placed into service for the first time in Nebraska, the one-time minimum equipment standards sticker shall be placed on the lower corner of the front windshield opposite the driver's side provided such sticker does not extend more than 115 mm (4 ½ inches) from the bottom of the windshield and is located outside the area swept by the windshield wipers.

002 Definitions

002.01 Activity Bus shall be a motor vehicle with motive power, except a trailer, designed or modified by the manufacturer, distributor or dealer for carrying 11 or more passengers, excluding the driver, which at any time would be used to carry school children, students and school personnel exclusively on a school activity trip from a given location to a second location without stopping to load or unload children on the public highways; provided that such transportation service is sponsored and approved by the local school governing board.

002.02 School Bus shall mean a motor vehicle with motive power, except a trailer, designed or modified by the manufacturer, distributor or dealer for carrying eleven (11) or more passengers, excluding the driver, meeting or exceeding NDE Minimum Standards for school transportation vehicles which at any time is used to carry school children, and school personnel exclusively. Such transportation service must be sponsored and approved by the local school governing board. Vehicles that only carry school children along with other passengers as a part of the operation of a common carrier under the jurisdiction of The Surface Transportation Board or Nebraska Public Service Commission are not included within the definition of school bus.

002.02A Type A School Bus is a conversion or body constructed upon a van-type



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compact truck or a front-section vehicle and designed for carrying more than 10 persons. This definition includes Type A-1, with a GVWR over 10,000 pounds and Type A-2, with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds and under.

002.02B Type B School Bus is a conversion or body constructed and installed upon a van or front-section vehicle chassis, or stripped chassis, with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds, and designed for carrying more than 10 persons. Part of the engine is beneath and/or behind the windshield and beside the driver's seat. The entrance door is behind the front wheels.

002.02C Type C School Bus is a body installed upon a flat back cowl chassis with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds, and designed for carrying more than 10 persons. All of the engine is in front of the windshield and the entrance door is behind the front wheels.

002.02D Type D School Bus is a body installed upon a chassis with the engine mounted in the front, midship, or rear, with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds, and designed for carrying more than 10 persons. The engine may be behind the windshield and beside the driver's seat, it may be at the rear of the bus, behind the rear wheels, or midship between the front and rear axles. The entrance door is ahead of the front wheels.

002.03 Small Vehicle shall be a motor vehicle with motive power, except a trailer, designed or modified by the manufacturer, distributor or dealer for carrying 10 or less passengers, excluding the driver, meeting or exceeding Nebraska Department of Education minimum standards for small vehicles which at any time would be used to carry school children exclusively. Such transportation service must be sponsored and approved by the school governing board. The preceding definition is not intended to include private motor vehicles used exclusively to carry members of the owner's household. "Capacity 10 passengers" shall be posted inside the vehicle in a conspicuous location.

002.04 Student Transportation Vehicle. Any vehicle utilized to carry school children as sponsored and approved by the local school governing board and conforms to the Nebraska Department of Education definitions of student transportation vehicles listed as School Bus, Activity Bus, and Small Vehicle in this Chapter, or complies with the provisions applicable to coach buses in Section 003.02 of Chapter 93.

003 School and Activity Bus

003.01 Braking System.

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003.01A Parking Brake System:

003.01A1 When applied, the parking brake shall hold the vehicle when attempting to pull forward in third gear.

003.01A2 If the system is an air brake system equipped with spring loaded park brake, the system shall begin to activate when air pressure decreases to 60 psi and shall be fully activated by the time the air pressure reaches 0 psi.

003.01B Hydraulic Brake Systems Only:

003.01B1 Brake pedal cover shall be present.

003.01B2 Rear differential seals shall not be leaking gear lube on to the brake lining.

003.01B3 Pedal reserve shall not be less than 1 inch when brakes are fully activated.

003.01B4 Brake drums shall not be lathed more than .120 on drums 15 inches in diameter and larger; or .060 on drums up to and including 14 inches in diameter.

003.01B5 Brake shoe thickness shall not permit:

003.01B5a Rivets to contact with drum or shoe below 1/32" thickness on front.

003.01B5b Rivets to contact with drum or shoe below 2/32" thickness on rear.

003.01B6 Fluid level in master cylinder shall not be more than 3/4" below top of reservoir.

003.01B7 Brake line/hoses/cables shall not be worn, leaking, or visibly deteriorated. (See APPENDIX C.)

003.01B8 Disc caliper/wheel cylinder must show no leakage, missing parts or breakage.

003.01B9 Brake disc pad thickness shall be at or above the minimum stamped on assembly with no evidence of leakage, missing parts or breakage.

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003.10B10 Disc brake rotor shall not be worn more or have been lathed more than specified on rotor.

003.10B11 Brake shoes and disc pads shall return to neutral position when foot pressure is released.

003.01C Hydraulic Boosted Hydraulic Systems with Electric Boosted Backup Only:

003.01C1 The fluid level in the hydraulic pump shall be at the proper level. Any fluid added shall meet manufacturer's specifications.

003.01C2 Lines and hoses shall not be worn, leaking, damage, or visibly deteriorated.

003.01C3 Belts shall not be worn, frayed, visibly deteriorated or improperly adjusted.

003.01C4 Pump driven pulleys shall be properly aligned with the drive pulley and shall not be badly worn, chipped or galled.

003.01C5 Electric booster wiring connections shall not be damaged, worn or show visible deterioration.

003.01C6 With the ignition key in the off position, and the brake pedal depressed, the electric motor shall operate to provide driver assisted emergency brake application, and warning lights shall illuminate and the buzzer shall sound.

003.01C7 With the ignition key turned to the on position, and the engine not running, and the brakes not applied, the warning lights shall illuminate and the buzzer shall sound.

003.01C8 With the engine running and the brakes not applied, the electric motor should not be running and the warning lights shall not be illuminated and the buzzer shall not be sounding.

003.01C9 With the engine running and the brakes applied, the electric motor should not be running, the warning lights shall not be illuminated, and the buzzer shall not be sounding.

003.01D Vacuum Boosted Hydraulic Systems Only:

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003.01D1 There shall be no leaks detected, or crimped, cracked, broken or restricted hoses. When operating, vacuum has been achieved in the vacuum tank, the check valve shall not allow vacuum to leak from reserve vacuum tank with the engine shut off.

003.01D2 Service brake shall move slightly as engine is started while pressure is on brake pedal.

003.01D3 Warning system light shall illuminate, and buzzer shall sound when the indicated vacuum is 8 or less in. mg.

003.10D4 Air cleaner shall not be clogged so as to prevent proper air intake.

003.01E Air Brake Systems Only:

003.01E1 Brake actuator travel shall not be more than 60 percent of available travel with brake chambers and slack adjusters in proper adjustment.

003.01E2 Maintenance of air pressure with service brake released or applied shall not be more than a 3 pound drop per minute with engine stopped and service brake released or applied.

003.01E3 Safety check valve designed and operable to release air pressure in excess of 150 psi (pounds per square inch).

003.01E4 Low air buzzer shall operate whenever the indicated air pressure is 60 psi or less.

003.01E5 Rear differential seals shall not be leaking gear lube on to the brake lining.

003.01E6 Brake drum shall not be lathed more than .120 on drums 15 inches in diameter and larger; or .060 on drums up to and including 14 inches in diameter.

003.01E7 Brake shoe thickness shall not permit:

003.01E7a Rivets to contact with drum or shoe below 1/32" thickness on front.

003.01E7b Rivets to contact with drum or shoe below 2/32" thickness on rear.

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003.01E8 Air compressor intake cleaner shall not be clogged so as to prevent proper air intake.

003.01E9 Air compressor belt shall not be frayed, loose or badly worn. Compressor driven pulleys shall be properly aligned with the drive pulley and shall not be badly worn, chipped or galled.

003.01E10 Brake shoe cam shall return to neutral position when foot brake pressure is released.

003.01E11 Air governor shall function according to manufacturer's specifications (cut in should be about 95-105 psi and cut out should be about 120-130 psi).

003.01E12 Drain wet tank and check operation of moisture ejector and air dryer, if so equipped.

003.01E13 Check brake chamber push rods to be certain that each is fully released. A positive method is to remove the clevis pin from push rod yoke and check alignment of holes in yoke and slack adjuster arm. If necessary, make adjustment so that slack adjuster arm and brake chamber push rod form an angle of 90 degrees at the mid-point of slack adjuster travel. In released position, angle formed should be greater than 90 degrees. All slack adjusters on the vehicle should be mounted at the same angle and have the same amount of travel.

003.02 Wheels and Tires

003.02A Tires: Tread wear indicators (See APPENDIX A).

003.02A1 No tire shall be flat.

003.02A2 Front wheel position shall not be worn so that less than 4/32" depth remains in any two adjacent major grooves at three locations spaced approximately equally around the outside of the tire for buses over 10,000 pounds GVW or 2/32" for buses 10,000 pounds GVW or less.

003.02A3 Rear wheel position shall not be worn so that less than 2/32" depth remains in any adjacent major grooves at three equally spaced intervals around the circumference of the tire.

003.02A4 Tires shall not show a knot or bulge.

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003.02A5 Tires shall not show tread cuts or snags in excess of one(1) inch in any direction deep enough to expose body cords.

003.02A6 Tires shall not show sidewall scuff cuts or snag damaging the body cords.

003.02A7 The tire shall not be so worn that the tread wear indicators contact the road.

003.02A8 There shall be no retread or regrooved tires on the front wheels.

003.02A9 There shall be no mixing of radial and non-radial tires on the same axle.

003.02A10 There shall be no damage or cracks in the valve stem.

003.02B Wheels.

003.02B1 Rim or wheel flange shall not be loose, cracked, defective or have more than 3/8 inch run out.

003.02B2 The casting shall not be cracked or show evidence of wear in the clamping area.

003.02B3 Stud holes shall not be out-of-round in the disc and there shall be no cracks between the hand holes and/or the stud holes in the disc.

003.02C Lugs and nuts shall not be damaged, loose or missing.

003.03 Steering and Suspension.

003.03A There shall be no more than the following inches of lash in the steering wheel, measured at the steering wheel. Lash means steering central motion without front wheel motion (motor running if power steering equipped):

003.03A1 Steering wheel dia. - 16 inches; Lash - 2 inches

003.03A2 Steering wheel dia. - 18 inches; Lash - 2 1/4 inches

003.03A3 Steering wheel dia. - 20 inches; Lash - 2 1/2 inches

003.03A4 Steering wheel dia. - 22 inches; Lash - 2 3/4 inches

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003.03B Steering hoses shall not be loose and/or leaking.  
(See APPENDIX B.)

003.03C Belts shall not be frayed or cracked on the inner edge.

003.03D Shock absorbers shall not leak or be broken (See APPENDIX F).

003.03E Chassis springs shall not be broken or missing, spring bolts broken, nuts missing, or spring hangers and spring shackles damaged.

003.03F Steering shall be power assisted.

003.04 Lighting and Electrical.

003.04A All turn signal lights and indicators shall function.

003.04B Back up lamps shall function when vehicle is placed in reverse.

003.04C The headlamps-upper/lower beams, indicator lamps for headlamps, red flasher lamps, 4-way hazard warning lamps, indicator for flasher lamps, tail lamps, stop lamps (brake), parking lamps, side marker lamps, clearance lamps, fog lamps, identification lamps, license plate lamps, reflex reflectors, stepwell light, all interior lights, and strobe light (post 1982 buses only) shall be properly installed and function lenses shall not be cracked, missing or broken.

003.04C1 The overhead flashing warning signal lamp system shall alternate properly.

003.04D The horns shall be operative.

003.04E No switches shall be broken and/or inoperative.

003.04F Wiring insulation shall not be worn or rubbed bare where it shows evidence of burning or short circuiting.

003.04G Battery cables shall not be broken and/or terminals corroded, and connections shall not be loose or not securely held down.

003.04H The starter in vehicles with automatic transmissions, shall operate only with gear selection in "P" or "N".

003.04I The windshield defroster shall be operative.

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003.04J The interior heaters shall be operative in both speeds.

003.04K Windshield wiper assembly shall be complete, undamaged and operative.

003.04L Windshield washers shall be operative and the system capable of cleaning an effective wash area.

003.05 Emergency Equipment

003.05A The fire extinguisher shall:

003.05A1 be dry chemical type.

003.05A2 be present and operable.

003.05A3 be accessible to driver.

003.05A4 be securely fastened.

003.05A5 be at least one 5 pound extinguisher or 2 - 2 1/2 pound approved by Underwriters Laboratories Inc., with at least a total rating of 2A10-B:C.

003.05A6 be inspected for date of last inspection of not over one year.

003.05B The first aid kit/s shall:

003.05B1 be present on buses with capacity of 30 or less.

003.05B2 be two kits on buses with a capacity of more than 30.

003.05B3 be accessible and visible to everyone on the bus.

003.05B4 have the following items:

003.05B4a 3 sterile gauze compress (36" x 36")

003.05B4b 2 non-sterile triangular bandage (40" x 36" x 54")

003.05B4c 24 sterile gauze pad (3" x 3")

003.05B4d 2 adhesive tape (1" x 2 1/2 yds.)



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003.05B4e 2 gauze roller bandage (2" x 6 ft.)

003.05B4f 12 bandage compress (3")

003.05B4g 12 bandage compress (2")

003.05B4h 1 bandage scissors (4")

003.05B4i 3 sterile eye pads

003.05B4j 100 adhesive bandages (3/4" x 3")

003.05B4k 1 moisture & dustproof kit of sufficient capacity to contain materials of the first aid kit.

003.05B4l 1 pair latex gloves (Exception-NR on transportation vehicle before 1991)

003.05B4m 1 mouth to mouth airway (Exception-NR on transportation vehicle before 1991)

003.05B5 be securely fastened.

003.05C Vehicles shall have one (1) body fluid clean-up kit (Exception-NR on transportation vehicle before 1991) which will have the following:

003.05C1 1 absorbent Pack 5 oz.

003.05C2 1 pair plastic disposable gloves

003.05C3 1 scoop

003.05C4 2 plastic trash bag with tie (Minimum 12 in. x 12 in.), 1 red-biohazard and 1 black

003.05C5 1 8 oz. bottle of disinfectant

003.05C6 1 disposable EPA registered germicidal towel

003.05C7 1 benzalkonium chloride towelette

003.05C8 1 moisture and dustproof kit of sufficient capacity to contain materials

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of the body fluid clean-up kit. (Exception - NR on buses before 1991)

003.05C9 1 scraper

003.05C10 1 antiseptic biohand cleaner 4oz.

003.05D Vehicles shall have (3) red and orange emergency reflective triangles.

003.05E Vehicles shall have two (2) tow hooks mounted on front and rear of buses manufactured from 1977 to present. Type A bus shall have one (1) front tow hook and one rear tow hook.

003.06 Mirrors, Glass, Sunshield.

003.06A Buses shall have one interior mirror, two exterior mirrors to the left and two to the right of the driver on vehicles manufactured from 1977 to present; and at least two cross-over mirrors, none of which are cracked or discolored and the mounting brackets shall be secure.

003.06B Window glass shall be approved safety glass and not have any exposed sharp edges, show signs of laminate discoloration, be broken, or cracked.

003.06C A sunshield shall be provided for the driver.

003.07 Drive Train.

003.07A Motor mounts shall not be loose, missing or show significant deterioration. (See APPENDIX E.)

003.07B Drive shaft guards shall be present, where applicable, properly installed and undamaged.

003.07C The retainer (if equipped) shall not have flange or u-bolts that are loose or missing.

003.07D Universal joints shall not be loose or broken.

003.08 Doors and Seats.

003.08A The service door and opener assembly shall have the opener operable and the service door fully operable.

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003.08B The emergency exit door warning system shall function, the door operable, the interior handle guard present, weather stripping present and undamaged, and the passageway to door unblocked or restricted to 12" width or greater.

003.08C The driver's seat shall be 11" or more between closest part of steering wheel and back rest, and the pedestal securely fastened to the floor.

003.08D The driver's seat belt shall be present and secured to the floor and/or equipped with boot and retractor. Type 2 lap belt/shoulder harness provided on buses after 1991 Passenger seats shall be forward facing and securely mounted.

003.09 Exhaust and Fuel System.

003.09A The exhaust system shall have a muffler and/or tail pipe with no part of system passing through the passenger compartment and no leaks or holes in the system or broken, damaged, missing pipes and parts. (See APPENDIX D.)

003.09B The fuel system shall have fuel tank filler cap, and safety cage. On buses manufactured after April 1, 1977 (See APPENDIX G). The exhaust system shall be 12" or greater from the fuel tank or be properly insulated from the fuel tank and tank connections by a securely attached rigid metal shield at any point where it is less than 12 inches from the tank or tank connections.

003.09C Alternate fuel systems include fittings and attachments that must be inspected for leaks, wear, or undue stress at quarterly intervals; container valves, appurtenances and connections must be inspected for damage from accidental contact with stones, ice or other loose objects; fuel lines must be inspected for damaged or missing rubber grommets and bulkhead fittings; all bolts in mounting brackets must be checked for proper torque on a systematic basis; all fuel system inspections must be conducted in accordance with National Board of Fire Underwriters (NBFU) Standard 58.

003.10 Miscellaneous.

003.10A Stanchions & guard rails shall not be loose or have fastening parts missing or padding missing.

003.10B Stepwell surface material shall not be loose or missing.

003.10C The stop signal arm shall be present and operable. It shall be an 18" octagon size, have two red flashing lights that are operable, the word "STOP" printed on both sides in 6" white lettering, and entirely reflectorized. Exception shall

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be coach style bus. Lights required on stop arm for equipped buses manufactured after 1977.

003.10D The roof must be of reinforced construction.

003.10E The floor construction shall be 5/8 " five ply plywood 14 gauge steel and permanently bonded rubber on upper surface.

003.10F Type A-2 bus shall have seat belts for all passengers.

004 Small Vehicle

004.01 Body interior shall be lined with upholstered material on head liner, door, and side panels.

004.02 Brakes shall be four-wheel brakes properly adjusted.

004.03 Handbrake shall be capable of holding the vehicle on an incline.

004.04 Two windshield wipers shall be provided and operable.

004.05 Three mirrors (two exterior and one interior) shall be provided and they shall not be cracked or broken.

004.06 Taillights, stop lights, headlights, and directional signals shall be provided and operable with no broken or cracked lenses.

004.07 A horn shall be provided and operable.

004.08 A sunshield shall be provided for the driver and be operable.

004.09 Heater/defroster shall be provided and be operable.

004.10 Unbroken and uncracked safety glass shall be in all windows.

004.11 Seat belts for driver and all passengers shall be provided.

004.12 One fire extinguisher shall be provided. It shall be a dry chemical type of 2 ½ pounds, size approved by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., with a total rating of 1A10-B:C.

004.13 One first aid kit shall be provided which includes the items as listed in

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003.05B4.

004.14 Body Fluid Clean-up Kit shall be provided and contain the items as listed in 003.05C. (Exception-NR on small vehicles before 1991.)

004.15 Emergency reflective triangles shall be provided.

005 Vehicles for Transporting Children In Mobile Seating Devices.

005.01 Vehicles must generally comply with minimum standards and inspection criteria established for school buses and small vehicles, but with the modifications as listed below:

005.01A Special service entrance doors, and positive fastening devices that function properly and a red flashing signal that functions properly.

005.01B A power lift that is covered with non-skid materials. (Exception-a ramp may be substituted.)

005.01C A steel ramp provided with a restraining device to prohibit mobile device from rolling off platform.

005.01D Fastening devices for mobile devices that attach securely to floor or walls.

005.01E Restraining devices shall be provided.

005.01F A light inside the vehicle which functions properly.

005.01G Grab handles shall be provided that are installed properly.

005.01H Restraining devices for handicapped transport shall be available that meet FMVSS 213.

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APPENDIX A - WHEELS AND TIRES

1. INSPECT FOR SPECIFIED WHEEL NUT TORQUE

Comment:

Check frequently to be sure that nuts are tightened on wheel studs to the manufacturer's specifications. This is especially important when the vehicle is new since parts are not yet seated. This also is important following removal and replacement of wheels and tire assemblies at any time. Improperly tightened nuts will cause excessive strain or damage to the wheel.

Action:

Use a torque wrench to tighten the nuts to the manufacturer's specifications. A torque wrench will give you a precise measurement. . . and avoid damage which can be caused by nuts which are either too loose, or too tight.

2. INSPECT FOR EXCESSIVE CORROSION OF WHEEL COMPONENTS

Comment:

Make this inspection every time a tire or a wheel is removed for any reason. Always look for corrosion of wheel parts--especially where one area contacts another. Corrosion (rust) weakens the wheel by reducing metal thickness, and affects torque and rigidity. When you take a wheel apart, be sure there is not excessive corrosion in the gutter area, the lock ring area, and inner bolt circle. Corrosion also acts as an abrasive between the tire and rim, which can damage the seal and contribute to air loss in the tires.

Action:

Replace wheel parts which are corroded excessively, to prevent possible wheel failure. Before reassembly of wheel parts remove all dirt and rust with a wire brush.

- ! Avoid corrosion on wheel parts
- ! Remove all rust and corrosion before reassembly

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APPENDIX A - WHEELS AND TIRES

3. MATCH MULTI-PIECE WHEEL PARTS CAREFULLY

Comment:

School Bus wheels are made up of 1, 2 or 3 parts. There are three general types and many different sizes and shapes. It is imperative to match the proper size, proper type, and parts of the same dimension.

**CAUTION:** Before inflating a new or repaired tire on a multi-piece rim, make sure the side and/or lock ring is properly fitted on the rim base. Servicing of tires mounted on multi-piece rims requires proper tools, safety equipment and specialized training. Severe injuries can result from improper servicing techniques. It is recommended that tires on multi-piece rims be serviced only by competent personnel with proper equipment or by competent truck tire repair shops.

Action:

After a rim and wheel are disassembled, be sure to reassemble with the same components. If replacement of a lock ring or side ring is required--use new parts. Do not try to match used parts from other wheel assemblies.

4. INSPECT TIRES DAILY

COMMENT:

Do not operate a vehicle with overinflated or under inflated tires. Maintaining recommended air pressure will provide the proper load-carrying capacity and help keep tires in good condition--and protect related parts. Do not use tires with little or no tread--or those with visible damage.

ACTION:

Inspect daily for flat or under inflated tires. Check for adequate tread, uneven wear, cuts, and cracked sidewalls. Maintain the manufacturer's recommended air pressure for the load being carried. Replace damaged or excessively worn tires immediately.

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APPENDIX B - THE STEERING SYSTEM

1. INSPECT ALL STEERING CONNECTIONS

Comment:

Action:

Check all connections for looseness and signs of wear.

Adjust, tighten, replace or repair, as necessary.

2. INSPECT FOR PROPER WHEEL STOP ADJUSTMENTS  
TO PREVENT RUBBING AND CHAFING

Comment:

Action:

Check for chafing of inner tire on steering or other components, When the wheel stop adjustment is set properly, the tire will not rub on other components when the bus is in motion and turning, If you see signs of wear or chafing, take action.

Turn wheels full left. . . and full right. Perform the wheel stop adjustment (according to the vehicle Service Manual) until there is adequate clearance between the tire and other components. Repair or replace damaged components.

3. INSPECT ROUTING OF POWER STEERING HOSES  
TO PREVENT RUBBING AGAINST MOVING PARTS

Comment:

Action:

Check for loose hose chafed by other parts, such as brake lines, mounting brackets and belts, etc.

Be sure all hoses are properly routed and clipped, with adequate clearances, so they cannot be rubbed by other parts. Replace damaged hoses. Damaged hoses can result in loss of hydraulic fluid and power steering assist.



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APPENDIX C - THE BRAKE SYSTEM

1. INSPECT ALL BRAKE LINES FOR INTERFERENCES AND CHAFING

Comment:

Examine brake lines and hoses, at every opportunity, for leaks due to loose connections or lines which may have been rubbed or chafed by wheels, tires, sheet metal, steering components, shock absorbers, or other chassis parts. Extreme wetness around fittings and cylinders can indicate loose fittings, leaky wheel cylinders or a ruptured brake line.

Action:

Repair or replace faulty parts immediately. Determine cause of damage and replenish brake fluid. Clip or route brake lines or hoses so that chafing cannot occur. Replace tubes and hoses which have been worn or damaged.

**IMPORTANT:** Hydraulic brake lines or hoses which have been worn or chafed due to contact with other vehicle components could rupture and cause a loss of Hydraulic Brake Fluid in part or all of the Brake system. On a vehicle equipped with a Dual Brake System a partial loss of braking action would occur. However, if a vehicle has a single hydraulic brake system--a total loss of braking action is possible.

2. INSPECT BRAKE LININGS AND DRUMS FOR WEAR

Comment:

Inspection of linings and drums should be made on a regular basis. (Example, 6 months or 6000 miles.) Whenever abnormal brake conditions, such as excessive noise, uneven braking, spongy or low brake pedal, etc., are discovered, brake components must be immediately inspected to determine the cause of the condition, so the condition can be corrected at once.

Action:

Remove wheel and examine linings for adequate lining thickness, damage or contamination. Excessively worn riveted linings will permit rivets to score brake drums. Check for drums which are damaged or out of round. For replacement or repair (including relining of brake shoes and turning of drums) be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

**IMPORTANT:** In no case should the brake drums be "turned" beyond the limits specified by the manufacturer.

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APPENDIX C - THE BRAKE SYSTEM

3. INSPECT FOR VACUUM AND/OR AIR LEAKAGE

Comment:

If your School Bus has a vacuum booster or air brakes, a regular inspection of air and vacuum hose connections and fittings is recommended. Air or vacuum gauges should be checked daily.

Action:

A large drop in air pressure--overnight--indicates an air leak in the system. To find the leak, coat all hoses, connections, and fittings with soapy water, and look for "bubbles" which will pinpoint the spot where air is leaking. Tighten all loose fittings. Repair or replace worn or defective parts.

IMPORTANT: A loss of air pressure on vehicles equipped with air brakes could result in a loss of braking action. On vehicles equipped with vacuum-hydraulic brakes, a loss of vacuum would result in a loss of power assist.

4. CHECK RESERVOIR FLUID LEVELS

Comment:

Hydraulic Brake Fluid levels should be checked regularly to maintain an adequate supply of fluid and check for leaking fluid. Extreme wetness around the Master Cylinder indicates a Master Cylinder Cover which is loose, distorted and not properly sealing.

Action:

Check Brake Fluid level according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Use only the grade of fluid specified by the manufacturer.

IMPORTANT: When reinstalling the Master Brake Cylinder Reservoir Cover, be certain that it is properly positioned and not damaged. It must seal the Reservoir to prevent Brake Fluid from escaping.

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APPENDIX C - THE BRAKE SYSTEM

5. INSPECT MECHANICAL PARKING BRAKE OPERATION

Comment:

Check linkage and lever adjustment regularly and encourage drivers to report any malfunction immediately.

Action:

Check Linkage adjustment at the parking brake following the manufacturer's recommendation. Also check Parking Brake Lever adjustment inside the vehicle, following the manufacturer's recommendation.

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APPENDIX D - THE EXHAUST SYSTEM

WARNING: Carbon Monoxide is present in all exhaust gases. While such gases may have odors which could indicate their presence, they also contain a certain percentage of carbon monoxide which is poisonous, tasteless, colorless and odorless. . . AND ARE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

1. INSPECT FOR LEAKAGE. . .AT REGULAR INTERVALS

Comment:

Prevent leakage of exhaust fumes by regular daily inspection and prompt correction, if required. Drivers should check visually for sagging or dragging tailpipes before operating the vehicle. Drivers should also report any suspected exhaust system rattles or increased engine exhaust noise.

Action:

The vehicle should not be operated when the exhaust system is leaking. Corroded or broken pipes and mufflers should be replaced. Stop all leaks immediately by repairing or replacing defective parts--or sealing joints as required, according to the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations.

Check the exhaust system, from underneath, with the engine running. Look for cracks, open seams, holes, corrosion and damage--from the engine manifold connection--through the exhaust pipe--to the muffler. . . and from the muffler to the tailpipe--checking all pipes, connections and fittings. LOOK and LISTEN!

2. INSPECT TAILPIPE AND MUFFLER HANGER BRACKETS REGULARLY

Comment:

In addition to supporting the exhaust system, the brackets maintain proper alignment. If they are allowed to break, bend, or fail, the exhaust system can break, bend, fall down, cause leaks, or get out of alignment.

Action:

Make an inspection at regular intervals and replace faulty brackets immediately.

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APPENDIX D - THE EXHAUST SYSTEM

3. CHECK THE ALIGNMENT OF THE EXHAUST SYSTEM REGULARLY

Comment:

Exhaust gases from the engine create high temperatures in exhaust system components. Care must be taken to make sure that these exhaust system components do not touch (and possibly burn or chafe) other parts--such as the brake hoses, brake lines, or fuel lines.

**WARNING:** On 1959-1962 GMC and Chevrolet School Bus Chassis (and possibly other makes of vehicles) the tailpipe is routed along the left side of the vehicle above the rear flexible brake hose. It is possible that misalignment of the tailpipe, or broken tailpipe hangers, could cause a tailpipe to come in contact with the brake hose. If so, the brake hose could be burned through with a resultant loss of hydraulic fluid and braking action. To avoid this possibility, all buses with this tailpipe routing should be regularly and carefully inspected to see that all tailpipe hangers are in good condition and properly positioned to prevent contact between the tailpipe and brake hose. If necessary, install an additional hanger and/or bracket to prevent such contact.

Action:

At regular intervals--make a visual check from underneath to be certain that the exhaust system parts do not touch and are not too close to any other parts which could be damaged by heat. Inspect each exhaust system part, including hangers. Then realign the exhaust system to eliminate interference. Be sure to follow the recommendations of the vehicle manufacturer.

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APPENDIX E - ENGINE MOUNTING

1. INSPECT MOUNTING CUSHIONS FOR DETERIORATION OR DAMAGE

Comment:

Mounting cushions absorb engine vibration engine vibration and prevent unwanted metal-to-metal contact between the engine and chassis. Since most engine mount cushions are made of a rubber/vinyl composition which is relatively soft--they can deteriorate with age.

Action:

The cushions should be examined periodically and replace engine mounts when necessary.

2. CHECK TORQUE OF ENGINE MOUNTING BOLTS

Comment:

Be sure the engine is securely attached to the mounting brackets on the frame to prevent excess vibration and misalignment.

Action:

Use a torque wrench, periodically, to tighten bolts to the manufacturer's specifications. If new bolts are required, always replace with the correct bolts of sufficient length as recommended by the manufacturer.

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APPENDIX F - THE SUSPENSION SYSTEM

1. CHECK TORQUE OF U-BOLTS REGULARLY

Comment:

Check tightness of nuts on U-bolts on both front and rear suspension on a regular basis. (Example: Monthly)

Action:

Use a torque wrench and tighten nuts to the manufacturer's specifications.

2. INSPECT ALL SUSPENSION SUPPORTING MEMBERS FOR WEAR

Comment:

A regular inspection (Example: Semi-Annually) should be made of all suspension supporting members, front and rear. This includes springs (coil or leaf) and spring shackles.

Action:

Replace or repair worn or damaged parts according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

3. INSPECT FRONT AND REAR SHOCK ABSORBERS REGULARLY

Comment:

Good shock absorbers help prevent broken springs and damage to other suspension, steering and braking components. Check regularly, and have drivers report any excessive bouncing, wheel hop, suspension noise, etc. Unusual or irregular tire wear could indicate a developing problem in the suspension system.

Action:

Replace shock absorbers if they become ineffective, or become worn or damaged. Follow the recommendations of the vehicle manufacturer.

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APPENDIX G - THE FUEL SYSTEM

1. INSPECTION OF THROTTLE CONTROLS

Comment:

Accelerator controls and linkage should be checked regularly to insure proper operation.

Action:

Check throttle linkage by fully depressing, and releasing, the accelerator pedal. The linkage should operate without binding or sticking, and the accelerator pedal should return consistently to the idle position. Repair or replace parts, as necessary. Adjust as necessary. Follow the procedures outlined in the vehicle manufacturer's maintenance manual.

2. INSPECT FOR FUEL LEAKS DAILY

Comment:

Fuel leaks should be corrected immediately to avoid the possibility of fire.

Action:

Each day, before the School Bus is operated, check for evidence of fuel under the vehicle, and for visible fuel leaks. Inspect the fuel lines, fuel tank and/or connections. Repair as necessary, or replace parts immediately, according to the recommendations outlined in the vehicle manufacturer's Service Manual.